

## Minutes - July 9, 2025

### CLUB BUSINESS

**President Gary Fitzpatrick** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. on the dot, then asked for a motion to approve the June minutes. **Dale Gates** so moved, **Ellora Stanton** seconded and the minutes were approved by acclamation.

**Treasurer Bill Gates** reported that the club has \$3,907.65 in checking with \$2.10 in year-to-date interest and \$5,341.05 in a certificate of deposit, with \$92 in year-to-date interest.

There was a round of applause for the patriotic-themed treats provided by **Tanya Davis** and her Hospitality Team members -- this month, **Lisa Seitz** and **Alberta Husch**.

**President Gary** noted that **Linda Ash**, who has been spearheading the We Care program, has indicated that she's stepping down due to health issues, effective immediately. Through We Care, she sends greeting cards to Newcomers who have been hospitalized or have lost a loved one. **Karen Dreher** has agreed to step into that role. If you know someone in the club who needs a card, please notify Karen at [niagaraway@comcast.net](mailto:niagaraway@comcast.net).

**Larrayne Zygmunt** of the Membership Committee said there were no new members or guests at the July meeting. She added that the club now has a total of 345 members.

**Molly Fitzpatrick** and **Chuck Hawkins** conducted the monthly raffle, which generated several first-time winners.

### CLUB EVENTS

**Douglas Grodt**, who leads monthly recreational hikes for club members, noted that, when the weather in the Grand Valley gets too hot, the hiking group heads to the Grand Mesa, where temperatures are significantly cooler. "It's nice to have the Grand Mesa and all its hiking trails nearby, so we can escape the heat," he said. In winter when valley trails can ice up, the group also goes snowshoeing on the Mesa. He noted that the next hike is Thursday, July 11, along the Mesa Top Trail. Anyone who wants more information -- or wants to get on Douglas's email distribution list -- can contact him at [jdgrodt@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgrodt@yahoo.com).

**Ken Seitz**, who organizes two activities with his wife **Lisa**, provided these updates (with Lisa's help):

- The next Wine Club tasting event will take place Thursday, July 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Art Center of Western Colorado. Wines from northern Italy will be featured, along with light appetizers, for \$25 per person. The deadline for signing up is July 10. "We've done several tastings from various regions of Italy, so this will be our final Italian tasting," he said. "Then we'll move on to a different wine region."
- The club's 2025 Labor Day Barbeque will take place (not surprisingly) on Labor Day, Monday, September 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. in Canyon View Park's Grand Shelter. The menu includes pulled pork and chicken, potato salad, cole slaw and cookies -- with a vegetarian option also available. Non-alcoholic beverages (bottled water, sparkling water and iced tea) will be provided; folks can bring their own adult beverage in a non-glass container. Cost is \$14 per person for members and \$16 for non-members. Since space in the park's pavilion is limited, reservations will be taken on a first-come basis; the deadline is Tuesday, August 26. Reservation forms are available in the July newsletter emailed to members and posted on the website.

**Suzan Fournier** said that two programs currently on break for the summer will resume in September.

- The Tour and Lunch program offers monthly tours of local businesses, non-profits or events for Newcomers folks, followed by lunch. A team of members --- **Susan, Bill Gates, Steve Likovich** and **Jean Greenfield** -- are taking turns organizing the tours. First up in the fall: A day trip to the Meeker Classic Sheepdog Championship Trials on Friday, September 5. The trials begin at 7 a.m., but since it takes about an hour and 40 minutes to drive to Meeker, the group will plan to leave Grand Junction around 8:15 and arrive around 10 a.m. More details will follow in the August meeting, and a sign-up sheet will be available then.

- Armchair Travelers offers presentations from local folks who have taken interesting trips, either foreign or domestic. The presentations are arranged through a partnership between Grand Junction Newcomers -- with **Susan** and **Carla Sherrick** as this year's point people -- and the Mesa County Public Library system. Presentations are open to the public, free of charge. They will resume on Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the MCPL central library's community room. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. The presenter will be Dr. Peter Booth, former executive director of the Museum of Western Colorado, current advancement director for the Art Center of Western Colorado and frequent presenter for New Dimensions, the Grand Valley's lifelong learning program. He will talk about the Navajo Trail in Arizona and New Mexico.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

In **Susan Norton's** absence, **President Gary** reminded the group that the next concert in the Music in the Grapevines summer series features the Exit 42 band. It takes place on Tuesday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Two Rivers Winery. Tickets are \$20 if purchased in advance or \$25 if purchased at the gate. All proceeds go to support the Art Center of Western Colorado's programs, including art camps for kids. Two tickets to the concert are included in the club raffle at the meeting's end.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

**Scott Perrin**, Grand Junction Newcomers Club member, cosmologist and astronomer, with graduate work in physics and astrophysics, gave an overview of dark sky objects. "I have a life-long interest in cosmology, the history and evolution of the universe," he said. "I've always wanted to see what's out there." His focus was not on the most frequently-viewed objects -- planets, moons, comets, asteroids and meteors. Instead he discussed and showed astrophotographs of bigger structures such as galaxies and nebulae. "We know that our solar system is in an outer branch of the Milky Way spiral galaxy, which is about 100,000 light years across," he noted. "But there are lots of other dark sky objects -- 7,840 of them, as most recently catalogued." Folks can learn more about those objects by taking advantage of local resources, including the Western Colorado Astronomy Club's public viewing events, where members bring their telescopes and offer insight into the images

they show. He also suggested apps such as Sky Safari, which identifies dark sky objects when you point your phone's camera in any direction. "There's a lot going on in astronomy, and I expect to see great headway during the next five years," he concluded. "We're close to having an accurate three-dimensional map of the universe, showing the light from 5,000 galaxies simultaneously." As for discovering life in other galaxies, Perrin said "I hope we find indications; mankind is certainly on the hunt."

-- *Lois Leach, Secretary*